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PREVIEW

DRAMA

LESSON 1: Identifying Conflict: *Romeo and Juliet*

LESSON 2: Appreciating Historical Drama: *Julius Caesar*

LESSON 3: Creating Mood: *A Christmas Carol*

LESSON 4: Recognizing Plot Structure: *Antigone*

When you complete this unit, you will be able to answer questions like these:

- *What is the main conflict in Romeo and Juliet?*
- *How do writers use words to create a mood?*
- *What events from Julius Caesar are historical facts? What parts of the play come from the playwright's imagination?*
- *What is the main conflict in Antigone, and how is it resolved in the end?*

PRETEST

Write **T** or **F** to show whether you think each statement is *true* or *false*.

1. ____ A problem is a conflict between people, ideas, or forces.
2. ____ In fiction, problems are always happily resolved.
3. ____ Historical fiction and fantasy are both realistic stories that tell about true-life events.
4. ____ In order to be historical fiction, a story must only include events that actually happened and characters who really lived.
5. ____ The mood of a story is the feeling and atmosphere the words create.
6. ____ The main problem in a story is usually solved near the very end.

LESSON 1

IDENTIFYING CONFLICT

Before reading . . .

Two young people meet at a party. From the moment they set eyes on each other, Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet are in love. Will the deep, long-standing hatred between their powerful families keep them apart? To find out, read the abridged scene from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

ROMEO AND JULIET Act II, Scene II



[Before dawn in the Capulets' walled garden in the town of Verona. A balcony of the Capulet mansion overlooks the garden. On the street side of the wall runs a narrow lane. Enter ROMEO in the lane. He climbs the wall into the garden. Moving in and out of the shadows, he approaches the Capulets' house. JULIET appears on the balcony of her second-floor room.]

ROMEO: But, soft, what light through yonder window breaks?
It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.
Arise fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief
That thou her maid art far more fair than she.
Her eye speaks to me. I will answer it.
I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks.
See how she leans her cheek upon her hand.
Oh, that I were a glove upon that hand,
That I might touch that cheek!

JULIET: Aye me!

ROMEO: She speaks! Oh, speak again, bright angel!

JULIET: (*not knowing Romeo is near and can hear her*)
O Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name,
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.

ROMEO: (*to himself*) Shall I hear more, or shall I speak at this?

JULIET: 'Tis but thy name that is my enemy.
Oh, be some other name. What's in a name?
That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.
Romeo, put aside thy name
And for thy name which is no part of thee,
Take all myself!

ROMEO: (*speaking from the shadows*) I take thee at thy word!
Call me but love, and I'll take a new name.
Henceforth I never will be Romeo.

JULIET: (*startled*) What man art thou, that thus hidden in night
So stumblest on my secret thoughts?

ROMEO: By a name, I know how to tell thee who I am.
My name, dear saint, is hateful to myself
Because it is an enemy to thee.
Had I it written, I would tear the word.

JULIET: My ears have not yet drunk a hundred words
Of thy tongue's uttering, yet I know the sound.
Art thou not Romeo, and a Montague?

ROMEO: (*coming forward so that Juliet can see him*)
Neither, fair saint, if either thee dislike.

JULIET: If my kinsmen see thee, they will murder thee!

ROMEO: I have night's cloak to hide me from their eyes
If only thou love me, let them find me here.

JULIET: Dost thou love me? O gentle Romeo,
If thou dost love, say it faithfully.

ROMEO: Lady, by yonder blessed moon I swear,
That tips with silver all these fruit-tree tops—

JULIET: Oh, swear not by the moon, the inconstant moon,
That monthly changes in her circled orbit,
Lest that thy love prove likewise changeable.

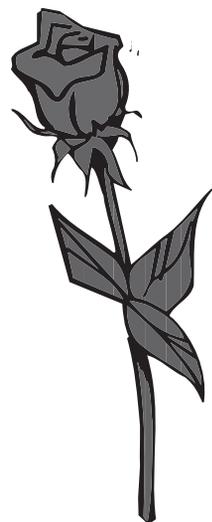
[Juliet's nurse calls from inside the room.]

I hear some noise within; dear love, farewell.

[She calls to the nurse, then turns back to Romeo.]

In a moment, good Nurse.

Three words, dear Romeo, and good night indeed.



If that thy love be honorable,
 Thy purpose marriage, send me word tomorrow
 By someone I will get to come to thee,
 Where and what time thou wilt perform the rite,
 And all my fortunes at thy foot I'll lay
 And follow thee my lord throughout the world.
 Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow.
 That I shall say good night till it be morrow.

[Juliet exits from the balcony.]

ROMEO: Sleep dwell upon thine eyes, peace in thy breast.
 Would I were sleep and peace, so sweet to rest.



COMPREHENSION

Write your answers in complete sentences.

1. Why does Juliet feel free to declare her love for Romeo out loud?

2. Why is Romeo unwilling to tell Juliet his name?

3. Why is Juliet anxious for Romeo to leave the garden?

4. What does Juliet ask Romeo to do to prove his love is true?

UNDERSTANDING CHARACTER

What do we know about Romeo and Juliet from what they say and do in this scene?

1. Circle the *adjectives* that best describe the young lovers.

impulsive	headstrong	practical	angry	obedient
cautious	unemotional	romantic	timid	eager